

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 039939

10

ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:KAKURZE

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Z 280801Z FEB 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 039939

EXDIS TOSEC 180

WHITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970

FOLLOWING SAIGON 2614 SENT ACTION STATE INFO GENEVA MOSCOW

JEC PARIS FEB 28 RPT TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 2614

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: PRG QUESTION AT LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC HAS JUST GIVEN MEN GVN DECISION ON QUESTION POSED REFTEL. HE TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT THIEU, WHOM HE HAD CONSULTED ON THE MATTER, HAD DECIDED THAT THE GVN COULD AGREE TO THE COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL. HOWEVER, THIEU IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT TWO POINTS: 1) THAT THE STATUS OF THE GVN DELEGATION AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS NOT BE SUBJECT TO QUESTION AND, 2) THAT IT BE CLEARLY PROVIDED IN THE INVITATION AND IN THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS THAT THE PRG WAS ATTENDING ONLY IN THE CAPACITY OF OBSERVER AND NOT AS PARTICIPANT.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 039939

2. I EXPLAINED TO BAC THAT OUR DELEGATION WOULD OF COURSE INSIST THAT

THE SOVIETS NOT ONLY NOT TAMPER WITH STATUS OF GVN AS FULLY PARTICIPATING

MEMBER OF CONFERENCE BUT WOULD SEE THAT IT AND ITS "FRIENDS" VOTED
WITH THE U.S. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DO
SO. AS TO OBSERVER STATUS, I ASSUMED THAT IS ALL THAT IS ENVISAGED
FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH WHICH UNDER SOVIET
COMPROMISE PRG WOULD BE BRACKETED.
MARTIN UNQUOTE CASEY

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